

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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----- 116184

R 081020Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5461

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS,SF

SUBJ: BLACK STUDENTS TO CONTINUE SCHOOL BOYCOTT

REF: PRETORIA 4611

QM AS NOTED REFTTEL, CAPE TOWN GENERALLY QUIET BUT TENSION NOT FAR FROM SURFACE. THERE CONTINUE TO BE ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF STONE-THROWING ON MAIN-ROADS TO AIRPORT AND TO SOUTHERN SUBURBS. TWO NIGHTS AGO, WINDON OF SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS BUS WAS SHATTERED ON WAY TO AIRPORT. ON OCTOBER 7 GANG OF YOUTHS IN BLACK TOWNSHIP OF GUGULETU STONED, HIJACKED AND LATER WRECKED A BUS. FOLLOWING STONINGS IN LANGA AND NYANGA, BUS COMPANY SUSPENDED SERVICE TO ALL THREE TOWNSHIPS.

2. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ALL THREE BLACK TOWNSHIPS HAVE BEEN BOYCOTTING CLASSES SINCE JULY. AT MEETING HELD AT A SCHOOL IN GUGULETU OCTOBER 6, ABOUT 200 STUDENTS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO CONTINUE BOYCOTTS. THIS FOLLOWS A MEETING LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER IN WHICH BLACK STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH D.H. OWENS, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANTU EDUCATION, TO PRESENT THEIR GRIEVANCES TO HIM. AT

INSISTENCE OF STUDENTS, PARENTS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS WERE EXCLUDED. ONLY OTHER ADULTS PERMITTED WERE THREE BLACK MINISTERS APPROVED BY STUDENTS. STUDENTS REPORTEDLY REJECTED PROMISED IMPROVEMENTS IN "BANTU EDUCATION," SAYING THEY COMPLETELY REJECTED THE CONCEPT AND DEMANDING EDUCATION EQUAL TO WHITES. OWENS REPORTEDLY SAID HE FOUND STUDENTS COMMENTS FAR-FETCHED BUT WOULD REPORT THEM TO PRETORIA. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT MEET AGAIN WITH STUDENTS BUT ONLY WITH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND CHURCH LEADERS.

3. "COLORED" SCHOOLS GENERALLY QUIET ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW INCIDENTS AT SCHOOLS IN ATHLONE AND SCHATTERED CLASS BOYCOTTS.

4. SOURCES CLOSE TO BLACK COMMUNITY BELIEVE BOYCOTT WILL CONTINUE IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE TOWNSHIPS FOR REST OF YEAR AND THERE NO HOPE THAT EXAMS WILL BE WRITTEN. MANY BELIEVE EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO MOUNT NEW DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE END OF YEAR BUT ARE NOT SURE WHAT FORM THESE WILL TAKE. IN VIEW TOUGH REACTION OF MANY EMPLOYERS FURING LAST WORK BOYCOTT - INCLUDING DISMISSALS AND WITHOLDING OF WAGES, MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE STUDENTS WILL FOREGO ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT WORK BOYCOTT IN FAVOR "OTHER" UNSPECIFIED TACTICS. WHITE

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